

middle TOWN NEWS letter

May 2021

Spring Plant Sale

The Friends of the Middletown Springs Public Library is pleased to announce its annual Spring Plant Sale on the library lawn **Saturday, May 22, 9 am-5 pm** and **Sunday, May 23, 10 am-2 pm**. Master Gardeners will be available to answer your plant questions both days.

We will accept **plant donations Thursday and Friday, May 20-21** at the library. Annual and perennial plant donations are greatly appreciated; we just ask that they are free of invasive plant species. We are especially excited about having medicinal and culinary plant donations this year.

New this year, **current Friends of the Library members are invited for a presale Friday, May 21, 5-7 pm**. If you have not renewed your membership, or are interested in joining the Friends, feel free to join us Friday evening as we will have membership forms available.

All proceeds go to benefit our wonderful library. For more information, please contact Nita Burch-Clay at burchclay@gmail.com.

Upcoming Events

Green Up Day – Saturday, May 1

8am - 12pm Details on page 3

Large Dumpster Day – Saturday, May 8

6 am - 12 pm Details on page 3

FOL Spring Plant Sale – Saturday, May 22,
9 am – 5 pm & Sunday, May 23, 10 am-2 pm

Details on page 1

Memorial Day on the Green – Sunday, May 30

Details on page 1

52nd Annual Memorial Day Observance

The Ad Hoc Parade Committee has reluctantly decided to cancel the Memorial Day Parade. As in 2020, there will be a ceremony to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice. It is our strong hope and belief that we will be able to hold the parade next year as more people get vaccinated and we move toward herd immunity.

We request that you stay at your house observing social distancing. We will have a small group of people at the Community Church of Middletown Spring's green to honor those who have died in battle or since then.

Our ceremony will take place at our traditional day and time, on Sunday, May 30, before the national observance of Memorial Day, at 3 pm. We hope to have a better way of live streaming/recording it this year! More information to come!

For the Love of Food – Take the Survey

The Vermont Agency of Natural Resources is conducting a survey to hear from the public and gain a deeper understanding of the current perception around **food waste in Vermont**. It's a quick survey and your input is greatly appreciated! Click the link to participate.

<https://vt-anr.typeform.com/to/nQEkDaf2>



Vermont state law bans food scraps from the trash. This does not mean that all Vermonters have to compost food scraps themselves, but they need to either bring the food scraps to a transfer station or drop-off, or have a hauler bring them to a composter or an anaerobic digester. Find out how to manage food scraps: <https://scrapfoodwaste.org/>.

Vermont Drug Take Back

Vermonters turned in thousands of pounds of unused and unwanted prescription drugs as part of the nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day. **7,165 pounds** of medication were collected across 55 sites throughout the state. That's a new record by about 400 pounds.

If you weren't one of them, it is not too late! Pick up a Medication Mail-Back Envelope at the Library to send in your unused and unwanted prescription for safe disposal. Visit www.healthvermont.gov to learn more about the program, including what can and cannot be mailed.

Pleasant View Cemetery News

The entrance gate of the Pleasant View Cemetery is officially **open to the public as of May 1**. Thanks to the unusually early and dry spring weather this year, the gate has actually been open for a couple of weeks now, but the official opening date is Saturday, May 1.

We were unable to coordinate with the elementary school students again this year for assistance with the spring clean-up efforts. We owe a huge **debt of gratitude** to Charlotte and Norvin Baker, along with Brenda and Terry Redfield, for raking up mounds of broken branches, pinecones, and other debris, and hauling the stuff away and down over the bank in the back of the cemetery. Thanks to the efforts of these volunteers, the cemetery will be ship-shape and looking good as it should!

Once mowing begins, the grounds are scheduled to be mowed every two weeks. Weed-whacking is scheduled with every other mowing, and we try to build the mowing schedule to coincide with the major memorial remembrances of Memorial Day and July 4 as best we can. It is a big job, and a challenging one, as there are obstacles galore! The end result is certainly worthy and deserving of the effort involved.

Lot holders are encouraged to clean up and remove any old, damaged, or unwanted decorations from their plots as soon as possible. We will be cleaning up the leftover Christmas wreaths, old plants, and broken decorations in preparation for the Big Dumpster Day May 8.

We welcome and encourage public use and enjoyment of this beautiful and peaceful setting. It is a safe haven for pets to enjoy as well; we ask any and all responsible pet owners to be vigilant and to clean up any "deposits" that may be left on this site. Artificial flowers are NOT allowed and will be discarded when encountered. We prefer live plants which take up CO2 and produce oxygen instead. Memorial contributions may be made at any time to Pleasant View Cemetery Association, 4 Colvin Road, Middletown Springs, VT.

Trustees:

Don Marcy

Art Castle

Terry Redfield

Alice Hoisington

News from the School

It is hard to imagine that it has been over a year since the start of the Covid pandemic and all the changes it has brought about. Middletown Springs Elementary School is one of only two schools in the supervisory union that has not had a case of Covid-19 come into the school. This success can be attributed to students, parents, and staff's diligent efforts to adhere to the safety protocols from the Vermont Department of Health. The schools put plans in place to provide four days of in-person and a half day of remote learning, with an option of remote learning for any family that felt this was the best option. After being fully remote last spring, it is very clear that in-person is the most age-appropriate learning environment for most students. Returning to in-person learning last fall, students and staff (probably parents, too) were happy to be back together in our learning community at MSES. Students and staff adapted to all the important safety protocols while creating a supportive learning environment.

Academic success for students is dependent upon more than just presenting curriculum. It also involves the social and emotional well-being of the student. Covid and the changes that it demanded brought a lot of stressors to students, with the loss of routines and expected milestones such as graduation and loss of year-end events. Supporting the social and emotional well-being of our students is more important than ever. Through the AWARE Grant, of which MSES is a beneficiary, resources from the area are collaborating to support students, families, and staff.

Some Highlights: All grades participated in VINS virtual field trips and in-person (outdoors) science. Fourth through sixth-grade boys and girls are participating in the Velocity and Girls on the Run programs sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield. These programs were able to take place by relying on flexibility and resilience in the face of challenge. We are grateful to have these opportunities for our students.

Rick Beal, Principal



Green Up Day

Celebrate spring, community and our state! Pick a road, grab a bag and do your part! Green Up Day is Saturday, May 1. Help pick up roadside litter and make our state shine.

Green Up bags are available at the Town Office and the Library. On **Saturday, May 1, 8 am - 12 pm**, Conservation Commission members will be on the Green right near Grant's Store with bags and sign up. If you have any questions or to sign up for a section of road, please contact Tasha Turan, 235-1290.

Notes from the Town Treasurer

Property tax payments for the 4th and FINAL quarter of fiscal year 20/21 are due on or before **Tuesday, June 15, 2021**.

Tax payments will continue to be accepted via mail OR by depositing them into the black drop box on the OUTSIDE of the Town Office. It is not necessary to enter the town office to drop off your taxes. Thank you for your cooperation.

Mail payments to PO Box 1022, Middletown Springs, VT 05757 with a 6/15/21 or prior postmark. If you require a receipt, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your remittance.

Plan NOW to submit your taxes on time – crazy weather and unexpected circumstances can foil your intention of submitting taxes on time.

Tax payments received or postmarked AFTER 6/15/21 are considered LATE and DELINQUENT.

An 8% penalty will be imposed if taxes are received or postmarked after June 15 and will be forwarded to

the Delinquent Tax Collector, Debra House, for collection. Additionally, 1% interest fee will be charged for the first 3 months of delinquency, and 1.5% interest per month will be charged thereafter.

If you have any questions regarding tax payments, please contact mtstreasurer@vermontel.net

Thank you.

Jenny Talke Munyak, Town Treasurer

Large Dumpster Day

The Town of Middletown Springs will be conducting our semi-annual Large Dumpster Day **Saturday, May 8, 6 am-12 pm**. The event will be held at the 577 West Street property across from Parker Water Wells. Large Dumpster Day is an opportunity for Middletown Springs residents to get rid of unwanted/unused large items that DO NOT qualify as normal household trash. This includes items such as mattresses, broken chairs/furniture, larger children's toys, and small amounts of construction/demolition debris. Please, NO contractors!

There is a \$10.00 per vehicle fee; vehicle load plus loaded trailer is \$20.00.

Metal only loads are accepted for free; please try to separate mixed loads as much as possible for more efficient unloading. Regular household trash and recyclables MUST be brought to Fort Dumpster. This includes electronics, which are recycled for no charge. Items containing refrigerant, such as refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners and dehumidifiers will be accepted at Fort Dumpster during this event. There is a **\$20.00 per item charge for refrigerants**.

Special Note: HHW (Household Hazardous Waste) materials such as paints, used oil, and old tires are NOT ACCEPTED. Also, normal household trash must be brought to Fort Dumpster.

Please note that the Town of Middletown Springs is NOT RESPONSIBLE for any damages that may occur during the loading or unloading process. Please **bring exact change or a personal check**, remain in your vehicle and practice safe social distancing and appropriate COVID protocols.

News from the Town Clerk

Time to Register Your Dog:

2021 licenses for dogs 6 months or older were due April 1. **Late fees are waived** but please do still come in as soon as you can to register your dog.

- \$9 fee for a neutered male or female
- \$13 fee for a non-neutered male or female

If you are not comfortable coming in person, you can mail your check and your current rabies certificate to the town office at PO Box 1232, MTS 05757 to register your dog by mail. Tags will be returned to you with your receipt.

Thanks for being a responsible pet parent.

Town Office Hours:

Monday & Tuesday 9 am – 4 pm
Thursday & Friday 1 pm – 4 pm

There are no longer regularly scheduled Saturday hours. Please plan accordingly. I am available for appointments outside of regular hours when necessary. We ask all researchers to make appointments ahead of time. To make an appointment, call or email the town office: 235-2220, middletown@vermontel.net.

Patty Kenyon, Town Clerk

Under Construction:

2021-2023 Town Directory

Please help make the 10th Edition of the Middletown Springs Phone Directory as accurate and complete as possible! The goal is to provide every household in town one free copy by summer.

RESIDENTIAL Phone Listings & Changes: New in town? Change your number, name or address? Know someone who has moved? Send us your CHANGES and NEW RESIDENTIAL listing.

Please refer to the current directory to determine if changes need to be made to your listing or to create a new one. If you don't have a copy, just stop by the Town Office or the Library.

[CLICK HERE](#) to submit your name, street/road, and phone number. **Questions?** contact Pat Hemenway, (Ladyh@vermontel.net/235-2421) or Kimberly Bushnell (kimberly.bushnell@icloud.com/235-9626).

Free! BUSINESS & SERVICES Listings: Add/change a business listing for your Middletown Springs-based business or service. Just review the current directory and use it as a guide, then click the link below to send in your information, or call us to help you develop your listing(s). Please note that if your business does not generally fit into any of the existing categories, we can create a new one. Middletown Springs businesses only, please!

[CLICK HERE](#) to list your business name, your name, up to 6 words of description, and phone number.

Questions? Leslie Silver (lsilver@vermontel.net/235-2335) or Kathleen Feeley (kbf44@icloud.com/235-2131).

ADVERTISING: In addition to the free listing, consider including a paid ad in the ADVERTISING section for greater visibility and long-term exposure for your Middletown Springs business. The printing and distribution of the directory are paid for entirely through advertising fees. Ad fees remain the same for 2021.

Email or call us at one of the numbers below - we'd be happy to answer any questions.

1. FOR AD RESERVATIONS, RENEWALS & CHANGES: To reserve new ad space or renew existing ads, make changes, payment, questions, contact Leslie Silver, lsilver@vermontel.net or call 235-2335.

ADVERTISING RATES

1/4 page "business card" size - \$25
existing ad / \$30 changes or new ad
1/2 page ad size - \$50 existing ad /
\$55 changes or new ad
Full page ad - \$100

2. FOR ARTWORK & PRODUCTION: Graphics, file formats & transmission, changes, production questions: Contact Maria Riley, rileydesign@vermontel.net or call 235-2624. (Note: acceptable ad materials for submission include high-resolution digital files in .jpg, .pdf, .eps formats that may be emailed, or printed material for scanning.) Thank you for supporting our town Directory!

The MS Directory Volunteers

Library News:

NEW & New-to-us Books!

Adult Fiction

*What's Mine and Yours** by Naima Coster
*The Four Winds** by Kristin Hannah
Winter Garden by Kristin Hannah
*The Survivors** by Jane Harper
*How Beautiful We Were** by Imbolo Mbue
*Klara and the Sun** by Kazuo Ishiguro
*The Consequences of Fear** by Jacqueline Winspear

Adult Non-Fiction

*The Sum of Us** by Heather McGhee
*Dancing in the Mosque** by Homeira Qaderi
*The Inevitable** by Katie Englehart
*The Light of Days** by Judy Batalion

*These books were purchased with the support of the Friends of the Library.

Public Library's Virtual Resources

These resources are available with a Middletown Springs Public Library library card. **Don't have a card?** Stop in the Library or email and we can sign you up for one. **Don't know your library card number?** We will look it up for you. If you have questions, comments, or need help, please [contact us](#).

[Universal Class](#)

[Learning Express Library](#)

[Vermont Online Library](#)

[Free Audiobooks & e-books](#)

Homebound Library Service

The Library provides delivery service of books and movies to those who are unable to visit the Library, whether on a temporary or a permanent basis. Large print and audiobooks are also available. Simply call the Library at 235-2435 or e-mail middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com to place a request. The catalog of the Library's collection can be viewed online at the Library's website (<https://middletownspringslibrary.org/>). Not sure what you want? Talk with Kimberly or Melissa and they will help connect you with something new to read or watch.



Keeping the Building Open

No/Low Contact Pick-Up: We encourage patrons to call or email ahead with their requests to pick up with little or no contact. Library Catalog may be accessed at <https://middletownspringslibrary.org/>

Sometimes you just need to browse! We are open for **walk-in patrons**, with COVID-preventing protocols which must be followed.

Library HOURS: open for walk-in service, as well as no/low-contact pick-up.

Monday 2 pm - 6 pm

Tuesday 2 pm - 6 pm

Wednesday 2 pm - 7 pm (newly extended)

Friday 10 am – 2 pm

Saturday 10 am – Noon





Big Dump Day!

Saturday, May 8
6 AM to Noon
577 West Street

Middletown Springs residents can discard unwanted/unused big items that **DO NOT** qualify as normal household trash

Fee: Vehicle OR Trailer Load \$10 | Vehicle AND Trailer Load \$20
Accepted materials include furniture, mattresses, larger children's toys, and small amounts of demolition/construction debris (NO contractors, please)

Help us keep things moving by separating metal items from trash
Regular trash & recyclable items, including electronics, MUST go to Fort Dumpster

No charge for truck/trailer load of metal items only
Items containing refrigerant accepted at Fort Dumpster during this event. Fee: \$20 per item

Note: Hazardous Materials, such as paints, oil, or tires are NOT ACCEPTED

Special Expectations:

- » Please bring exact change or a personal check
- » Please remain in your vehicles until otherwise instructed
- » Please practice social distancing & COVID protocols



Calendar of Events

In response to Governor Phil Scott's order to minimize gatherings, the Middletown Springs Selectboard has encouraged all Town boards and committees to meet virtually. Please check with the following people to see whether a meeting will be held at its usual time and place, and the preferred method for remote participation.

Regular Meeting Schedule & Chair or Contact Person

Conservation Commission	2 nd Thurs	Elizabeth Cooper (235-1406)
Fire Dept. Training	Every Tues	Joe Castle (235-2160)
First Response	3 rd Sun	Carl Haynes (235-1264)
Friends of the Library (FOL)	2 nd Wed	Ashley Fioretti (235-3000)
Historical Society	1 st Thurs	David Wright (235-2376)
Library Trustees	4 th Wed	Kristal Hier (235-1297)
Planning Commission	1 st Mon	Hilary Solomon (235-1115)
Selectboard	2 nd & 4 th Thurs	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Town Facilities Planning	1 st & 3 rd Thurs	Terry Redfield (235-2084)
Wells Springs School Board	1 st Wed	Clarence Haynes (235-2505)

When public meetings do occur, those present must wear masks or facial covers and meeting organizers must set up the meeting space so that the recommended six feet of distance is maintained between participants.

The Vermont Secretary of State has updated, temporary guidelines for boards & committees to comply with **Vermont Open Meeting Laws**. You can find more information at <https://sos.vermont.gov/secretarys-desk/commentary/updated-covid-19-impacts-and-considerations-for-open-meeting-law/>.

Town Newsletter

Lots of information in a snippet & list format, plus a Calendar of Events. No ads, articles, or minutes.

This supplements and enhances the Town website & Front Porch Forum (FPF) and will serve the needs of those who don't regularly use computers.

Digital copies are available as a PDF. The PDF is posted on FPF and the Town website or is sent free via email to those who sign up. It is also available in hard copy, delivered by USPS, to those who subscribe for \$6 a year postage. Copies are posted at the Town Office, Grant's Village Store, and the Library.

Have questions? Contact Kimberly and Melissa at the Library, middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com or 235-2435.

Submit News & Events to:

Middletown Springs Public Library
middletownspringslibrary@gmail.com
PO Box 1206
Middletown Springs, VT 05757

Deadline: 25th of the month

Front Porch Forum

Join Front Porch Forum to know what is happening between issues of the middleTOWN NEWSletter. It's free. It's local. And it's friendly.

Check it out at <https://frontporchforum.com/>.